

Clayton County
Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting: March 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order shortly after 10:00 a.m.

All commission members were in attendance: Lee Embretson, Ellen Collins, Lee Lenth, Myra Voss, and Bruce Collins. Also in attendance were Frank Phippen, a friend of the commission; David Beck, president of the Clayton County Genealogy Society; and Audrey Posten, editor of the *Clayton County Times-Register*.

A motion was made by Lee Lenth to approve the agenda for the meeting. Ellen Collins seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, several corrections were noted and made. Ellen Collins made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

Myra Vosses' Records

The first order of business was a discussion of the Pioneer Cemetery related records Myra Voss has amassed over many many years that are presently stored in her home. Myra is concerned about these records and that they be maintained and available for use after she is no longer able to do so. David Beck as president of the Clayton County Genealogy Society was asked for his thoughts on this matter.

David expressed his concern about fire issues and his concern that all hard copy records would be lost if the records were at the genealogy center and a fire occurred. He also expressed the

advantages of having the records digitized. David noted that he would have some time later this year to work on digitizing the records that Myra has. Myra Voss made a motion that David Beck come to her house and work on digitizing the Pioneer Cemetery related records she has. Ellen Collins seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Signs—Patterson Cemetery

At our last meeting there was discussion of signs for the Patterson Cemetery. At this meeting Bruce Collins displayed a mock up for a proposed metal sign at the entrance of the cemetery, which would have dimensions of approximately 22”x 18” with the name— Patterson Cemetery-- and the date –Est 1849--on both sides of the sign. Lee Embretson will check with the Patterson family to okay the use of the 1849 date.

Bruce Collins also presented a proposal for a metal sign to be placed by a large rock that is the marker in the Patterson Cemetery for a woman that died while in transit on an emigrant train. Certain revisions were suggested for this sign. Bruce Collins will work on this sign design.

Pioneer Cemetery Record Keeping Form

Friend of the commission, Frank Phippen at a prior meeting displayed a form he has used for recording burial and history information at the Eastside Cemetery in Elkader. Ellen Collins said she liked the form and would use it as a basis to make a form to fit the needs for the Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

Redman Cemetery

Frank Phippen, said he would make a cement form to be used as a foundation for a tombstone he has to be installed in Redman Cemetery near Millville.

Other Discussions

Lee Embretson said he would do some follow up related to King Cemetery.

The commission again discussed the bent gate at the Eastman Cemetery.

Related to the McClelland Cemetery, it was again noted that the way to define the perimeter of the burial site is by using have gauge wire panels. It was noted that money (\$500.00), held in a special bank account, has been contributed by the ancestors of those buried at this cemetery for use in the cemetery's maintenance. It was also noted that the time to do this work is before spring planting occurs in the surrounding field. Lee Embretson will see about purchasing the needed panels to install once the fields have dried. Bruce Collins volunteered to assist Lee.

Our commission's next meeting is scheduled for April 09, 2022, 10:00 a.m. at the Clayton County Genealogy office.

History Lesson

Members of the commission as well as Frank Phippen, gave Audrey Posten, editor of the *Times-Register*, a brief oral history of the Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and the work done by a number of people related to pioneer cemeteries before the commission was established as an official county commission.

Motion to Adjourn

At 12:20 p.m. Bruce Collins made a motion to adjourn. Myra Voss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Collins –Secretary—CCPCC